

THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

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MALGAIGNE'S OPERATIVE SURGERY, TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

MEDICAL PROGRESS.

Indiana State Medical Society.—The annual meeting of this society was held at Indianapolis in May last. The president, Dr. Cornett, delivered an address on the rise, progress, present state and future prospects of medical science.

Among the resolutions adopted was the following:—

Resolved, That the society highly approve of the course and objects of the National Medical Association, and that, as far as circumstances permit, they will faithfully carry into effect their views and recommendations.

Dr. Bullard, from the committee appointed for that purpose, reported as follows:

The committee appointed to report upon the advantages of an organization of the profession in the State, for the advancement of its dignity and interests, and its defence against quackery, would respectfully report that they recognize the sentiment that "in union there is strength," as well in our own profession as in every other walk in life, and that for this end we reaffirm the resolution adopted by our convention last year, recommending the formation of county and district Medical Associations, as tending to elevate the standard of medicine, promote harmony amongst its members,

and benefit the community at large." In regard to "general suggestions upon the best mode of instituting such organizations," your committee would only urge that the great principles of the National code of Medical Ethics be recognized by local associations, and the details of such organizations be left to their voluntary action.

After the transaction of various business of local interest, the following officers were elected for next year:—

President—Dr. A. Clapp, of New Albany.

Vice-Presidents.—Drs. Wm Lomax, of Marion, Grant County; R. Curren, of Indianapolis; Wm. Davidson, of Madison; Hitt, of Vincennes.

Secretary.—Dr. J. S. Bobbs, of Indianapolis.

Assistant Secretary.—Dr. A. M. Hunt, of Indianapolis.

Corresponding Secretary.—Dr. T. Bullard, of Indianapolis.

Treasurer.—Dr. D. Funkhouser, of Indianapolis.

Librarian.—Dr. P. H. Jameson, of Indianapolis.

Delegates to National Association at Charleston, S. C.—Drs. Robt. C. Hamill, of Bloomington; L. Dunlap, of Indianapolis.

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lis; Farquher, of Logansport; John Sloan, of New Albany; T. Ryan, of Anderson.

Contingent Delegates.—Drs. J. D. Maxwell, of Bloomington; J. S. Bobbs, of Indianapolis; W. T. S. Cornett, of Versailles; S. M. Linton, of Columbus; D. Hutchison, of Mooresville.

The society adjourned to meet on the third Wednesday in May, 1851.

Erie County Medical Society.—At a recent meeting of this society, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"Resolved, That no member of this society shall be allowed to meet in consultation with any person acting in the capacity of a physician who is not a member of this society, or otherwise qualified to become a member on application under the existing constitution and by-laws of this society; and for every violation of the letter or spirit of this resolution, the member so offending shall receive for the first offence the censure of the society; for the second offence suspension till satisfaction is given for the offence committed; and for the third offence receive expulsion."

Drs. Flint, Beebe, Vosburg, Miller and Perkins, were appointed a committee to issue a communication to the public, giving the reasons for adopting the preceding resolution. This duty they have accomplished in an able manner, and have published their address in the *Erie Gazette*.

Cheap Medical Schools.—[The following remarks are from a late number of the *London Journal of Medicine*, one of the ablest conducted of the British Medical Journals.]

"If cheap medical teaching have degraded the studies of the teacher and the taught in England, what are we to expect in America? In the Rush Medical College of Chicago, Illinois, the students only number one hundred and seven, yet the following are the terms: Full course of seven professors, thirty-five dollars; matriculation and clinical instruction, *gratis*; dissections, five dollars; graduation, twenty dollars. So much for competition!"

MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Tribute to Prof. Chapman.—Prof. Wood, in his introductory lecture to the course of

Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, delivered October 11th, 1850, pays the following just and eloquent tribute to his predecessor, the venerable and illustrious Chapman:—

"It seems to me that, before entering regularly on the duties of this place, it may not be unbecoming to pay my small tribute to the merits of him who filled it before me. Happily, though withdrawn from an active participation in our labours, he is still among us, and, in the office of Emeritus Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, yet lends his countenance to the school, which he so long aided to support and elevate by his prelections. It would be grateful to me, could I, with a due regard to propriety, delineate to you those personal traits of our honoured friend, the expanded intellect, the fine imagination, the extraordinary judgment, the keen insight into character, the ready and cheerful wit, and, above all, the kindly feelings and excellent heart, by which he has ever been distinguished among those who have known him best. I should delight in doing justice to the quick flow of thought, the rapid combination, the ready perception of ludicrous analogies, and the copiousness of language, which rendered him one of the best extemporaneous speakers, and caused all that he said, whether in ordinary converse, at the festive board, or on more stately occasions, at once to impress with its justness of thought, and to delight by its sparkling pleasantries and imaginative brilliancy. It would be a source to me of unmingled satisfaction, could I follow him in the daily walks of life, into the private circle, the sick chamber, the meetings of business or of pleasure, and endeavour to delineate to you those qualities, which, wherever he went, caused his coming to be hailed with pleasure, and gave a charm to his intercourse, which it is the happiness of few to command in this world of struggle and of strife. But respect for the decencies of life forbids such an analysis of living character, even where nothing but what is creditable would be displayed; and I must content myself with referring to facts and incidents, which, being more or less of a public nature, are a fair subject for contemporary notice.

"Thirty-five years ago, when I first entered as a student into the medical department of this University, Dr. Chapman was Professor of *Materia Medica*, to which chair he

had been elected in 1813. I recollect that, even then, though a young man, he was among the most popular teachers of the school. In 1816 he was made Professor of the practice; and for two winters I had the pleasure of listening to his instructions; and it was from him undoubtedly that I received many of those therapeutical views, which I have ever since held, and which will be inculcated in the ensuing lectures. I need not tell you that he continued to hold that professorship until his resignation last spring, a period of about thirty-four years.

"In the prime of his life he attracted about him large classes of private pupils, for the instruction of whom he associated with himself several young men, who afterwards formed with him the Medical Institute, and most of whom have since attained eminence in their several departments. Professors Horner, Jackson, and Hodge of the University, and Professor Mitchell of the Jefferson School, were among his associates. No medical man upon this continent, probably no one in the whole world, has been concerned in the education of so many pupils, public and private; and thousands, scattered over all parts of the United States, many of them the most distinguished men of their respective neighborhoods, hold his name in honoured and affectionate remembrance.— Though not the oldest in years of our medical men, he certainly deserves to be considered, more than any other living individual, the patriarch of his profession in this country. The general feeling of that profession towards him was flatteringly evinced in the year 1847, when he was chosen by the great American Medical Association, then meeting in this city, their first President; and they who were present on the occasion vividly remember the feelings of affectionate enthusiasm with which his installation into that highly honourable office was greeted.

"As a practicing physician, he has been scarcely less distinguished, than as a teacher. In this city he has always been among those who enjoyed the highest confidence of the community; and throughout the Union his reputation as a practitioner was such that his opinion was eagerly sought, and many came hither from great distances for the benefit solely of his advice. The younger members of the profession looked up to him with affectionate confidence, loving his warm genial

nature as much as they respected his abilities; and his aid in consultation was habitually called in by the most distinguished among us, long after his advancing age had induced him to withdraw, in great measure, from the more active offices of his profession.

"Nor was it only in the rank of his professional brethren, or among those bound to him by the strong tie of medical service, that he was highly esteemed. The position long held by him of Vice-President of the American Philosophical Society—the most distinguished scientific body of the Continent—and that of President of the same Society, to which he was afterwards elevated, evince the respect entertained by the best informed men in the community for his general intellectual endowments.

"His career throughout, from youth to manhood, from manhood to old age, has been in the highest degree prosperous and flattering; if the most kindly regards, general respect, a wide social and professional influence, a reputation limited only by the bounds of civilization, and the highest positions not political which an individual can attain in this country, may be considered as evincive of prosperity and honour.

"Feeling the weakness of age encroaching upon him, he has spontaneously withdrawn from all his active duties, and all his elevated positions; and now, reposing on his yet unfaded laurels, amidst the grateful ministrations of affectionate kindred and friends, he may look back to the crowded scenes of the past, and forward to the vast uncertainty of the future, with the calm feelings of one who has done his work in the day, and may hope for a peaceful reward, when the sun of a new and endless morning shall rise after the night of life."

—
Transfer of Dr. Wood from the Chair of Materia Medica to that of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.—[As some erroneous statements in relation to the course pursued by Prof. Wood, in the movements which resulted in his transfer from the Chair of Materia Medica to that of the Practice of Medicine, have been circulated, it is but just to the Professor, and may be interesting as a part of the medical history of our time, to give place to the following narrative of that event presented by the Professor in his introductory lecture:]

"You are aware that the professorship I

now fill became vacant soon after the close of the last session, by the resignation of Dr. Chapman, whose failing strength induced him to withdraw from its onerous duties, after a career of honour and usefulness, never surpassed in the medical history of this country. In the movements which afterwards took place in reference to the filling of the vacancy, I was quite passive. An honourable ambition might suggest that the Professorship of the Practice, occupied as it had been by men so illustrious, held a somewhat more elevated place in public estimation than that of *Materia Medica*; and the consideration was not without weight, that in the former a new field was opened, calculated to stimulate energies and industry, which, without some fresh excitement, might perhaps slumber in the hebetude of increasing age. On the other hand, however, were the reflections, that with my existing duties I was quite familiar; that to fulfil them it was only necessary to keep up with the advancing tide of knowledge; that rest rather than increased labour was suited to my time of life, or at least soon would be; and that in making a change, I might be abandoning a position to which sufficient trial had shown me to be in some degree adequate, for another in which I might not prove equally useful, or give equal satisfaction. The motives for a change were insufficient to outweigh those of a contrary character; and having, therefore, no personal ends to answer, I had no other wish, in reference to the future arrangements, than that they might be such as would conduce to the advantage of the school.

"To my colleagues, and to all others concerned, when interrogated on the subject, I freely made known these sentiments; declaring truly that I was personally indifferent whether, in the approaching election, another or myself should be chosen, that I was desirous only that the true interests of the school should be consulted, and that, not being the best judge of my own qualifications, I should take no step in the matter, but leave it altogether to the wisdom of those in whose charge the Institution was placed. Should they believe that I could best serve the school in the department of *Materia Medica*, I would cheerfully persevere in my former path of labour, and cordially greet any new colleague whom the Trustees might elect to the vacant professorship. Should it, on the contrary, be

thought that I could do better service in the practical chair, I would acquiesce in the decision, and exert myself to the extent of my capacity, to fulfil its various and burdensome requisitions.

"Under these circumstances, the choice, as you are aware, fell on myself; and I should not be doing justice to my feelings on the occasion, if I did not confess to you that this mark of confidence was in the highest degree gratifying to me, though involving much of labour, of sacrifice, and of misgiving on my part."

—
Transactions of the American Medical Association.—The third volume of these transactions, containing the minutes of the third annual meeting of the Association, held in Cincinnati, with the reports of the several standing and special committees, and three or four papers read before the association, with a list of the permanent members, has been published. It is a well-printed volume of 500 pages, and quite as replete with interesting matter as either of the preceding ones. The price is three dollars. Delegates who have paid the assessment (\$3), are entitled to a copy, as are also permanent members on paying two dollars, or three copies for five dollars. Societies which have been represented in the Association will be furnished copies for their members on the same terms that it is issued to permanent members, viz: three copies for five dollars.

Orders may be sent to Messrs. Lea & Blanchard, Philadelphia.

—
Committee on Practical Medicine of the American Medical Association.—The undersigned, Chairman of the Standing Committee on *Practical Medicine*, appointed by the American Medical Association, May, 1850, respectfully solicits the co-operation of members of the Medical Profession in furnishing materials for the Annual Report in May, 1851. The duty of this Committee, as defined by the Constitution of the Association, is to "prepare an Annual Report on the more important improvements effected in this country in the management of individual diseases; and on the progress of epidemics; referring, as occasion requires, to medical topography, and to the character of prevailing diseases in special localities, or in the United States generally, during the term of their service." In order to fulfil

the objects thus expressed, the requisite data must be supplied by medical practitioners in different sections of the Union. This is more particularly true with reference to the "progress of epidemics" and "the character of prevailing diseases in special localities." Communications, therefore, are particularly desired from persons residing in places in which epidemics have prevailed, or in which prevailing diseases have been marked by special characters during the present year. Epidemic cholera and dysentery are known to have prevailed more or less extensively in different parts of the country during the past summer. Facts bearing upon the features peculiar to the present season, the production, diffusion, mortality, treatment, etc., of these diseases, will be acceptable. It is requested that communications upon these or any of the subjects coming under the cognizance of the committee, be transmitted to the undersigned by the first of March, 1851.

All contributions with which the committee may be favored will receive due attention and acknowledgment.

AUSTIN FLINT.

BUFFALO, New York, Nov., 1850.

Editors of Medical Journals will confer a favour by copying the above.

The New Hampshire Journal of Medicine.—The first No. of a new journal with this title, edited by Edward H. Parker, M. D., was published at Concord, N. H., in August last. It is an experimental No., and the appearance of the second is to depend upon the patronage bestowed on the undertaking. It is proposed, we believe, to issue it in monthly Nos., each to contain 32 pages, at one dollar a-year.

The New York Register of Medicine and Pharmacy.—This is the title of a new semi-monthly journal, edited by C. D. Griswold, M. D., of New York, and the first No. of which was issued on the 1st of October last. Each number contains 16 pages, and it is to be furnished for one dollar a-year.

Massachusetts Medical College.—Dr. E. N. Horsford has been appointed Professor of ~~Physiology~~ in this school.

Medical College of Georgia.—Prof. L. A. Dugas has been transferred to the chair of surgery, and the vacancy thus created in

the chair of physiology and pathological anatomy has been filled by the appointment of Dr. H. V. M. Miller.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

A Succedaneum to Sulphate of Quinine in Intermittent Affections.—Dr. BAUD, a French physician, is on the eve, as he supposes, of superseding the well-known quinine salt with a preparation which he calls hydro-ferrocyanate of potash and urea. He calls upon his medical brethren to give this new salt a trial, and states that in his own experiments he has found it arrest periodical affections, especially intermittent fever, with an almost unfailing certainty. Whether this compound will be found as efficacious in other hands as it has been in those of Dr. Baud, time will show; the preparation of the salt has, at the same time, not been made public, the distinguished chemist, Mr. Henry, having been exclusively entrusted with the secret. This precaution does not look well, and raised some suspicions in the mind of a French apothecary, who, having bought some of the sweetmeats containing the salt (a favourite form among French pharmaciens) analyzed this hydro-ferrocyanate of potash and urea, and came to the conclusion that there was no urea in it. This result was made public in *L'Union Médicale*, and at once refuted by Mr. Henry, who showed very satisfactorily that the analysis had not been conducted properly. At all events, it is clear that the remedy will not be tried so extensively as it should be, since the manner of preparing the salt has been kept secret by the author.—*Lancet*, Oct. 26.

Researches on the Alkalinity of the Serum of the Blood of Man.—Dr. CAHEN has presented to the French Academy of Medicine a memoir entitled "*Experimental Researches on the Alkalinity of the Serum of the Blood of Man.*" It is well known that the alkalinity of the serum is a natural condition depending on the presence of the salts of soda, and that the reaction is essential to the healthy condition of the circulating fluid; and when this alkalinity is modified, the qualities of the blood are immediately changed. M. Cahen has inquired what are the effects produced on the blood by the increase or diminution of its alkalinity, and whether certain pathological conditions are

not due to the similar causes. The results of his very laborious investigations are given in the following summary:—

1. In health, the serum holds in solution the substance which ultimately is decomposed into fibrin and albumen. 2. Fibrin and albumen are susceptible of mutual transformation. 3. Fibrin cannot maintain its characteristics in the presence of a liquid containing soda in solution, at a temperature of 40°; it appears then to be converted into albumen. 4. *In Inflammatory diseases*, the fibrin is augmented, the albumen diminished. 5. The augmentation of the fibrin is in exact proportion to the diminution of the albumen. 6. The proportion of the salts of soda is diminished. 7. The addition of a minute quantity of a solution of soda restores the normal proportion of the salts. 8. The augmentation of the fibrin is due to the diminution of the alkalinity of the serum. 10. *In adynamic or putrid diseases*, the fibrin is diminished in quantity. 11. The salts of soda are superabundant. 12. The diminution of the fibrin is due to the increased alkalinity of the serum.

The therapeutical indications founded upon these deductions are obvious, viz., to give alkalis in inflammatory diseases, and acids in adynamic maladies.—*Prov. Med. & Surg. Journ.*

Linseed Oil in Hemorrhoids.—M. VAN RYAN believes that, in general, surgical treatment is too hastily resorted to in this affection, and he wishes to bring under the notice of the profession a remedy he has found of great efficacy during twenty-five years. It consists in the administration of two ounces of fresh linseed oil morning and evening; and so rapid is the amendment generally, that the remedy is seldom continued longer than a week. Sometimes the stools are somewhat increased in quantity, but neither vomiting nor any other ill effect is produced. The only precaution the while, is the abstinence from alcoholic drinks and too stimulating a diet.—*L'Union Médicale*, No. 69.

Vaccination—its protective power depending on numerous Vesicles.—M. DELFRAYSSE states, in a note to the Academy of Medicine, Paris, that he had arrived at certain conclusions as the result of his investigations into the causes of the failure in the protective power of vaccination against

small-pox. His experience had convinced him that vaccination is an infallible preventive where the vesicles are sufficiently numerous to produce a degree of febrile reaction, and that its failure is to be attributed to the insufficient development of this febrile reaction, or to its non-occurrence. He proposes that, instead of the four or five punctures usually made on the arm, from twenty to thirty should be practiced on different parts of the body. In confirmation of his views, M. Delfraysse states that he has with impunity exposed all the children that he has so vaccinated to the greatest risk of contracting small-pox.—*Dublin Med. Press.*

French Medical Congress.—The next Medical Congress will be holden at Paris, where preparations are already being made to render the assembly of savans worthy of the capital of France. The value of the new remedy against rabies, the *grains de cedron*, which are now in course of cultivation at the Garden of Plants, will form, it is said, one of the most interesting topics at the meeting.—*Med. Times*, Nov. 9th, 1850.

Retirement of Sir James McGrigor, Bart., from the Army Medical Department.—This distinguished medical officer, who has so long and so ably fulfilled the duties of Director General of the Army Medical Department, has now, in his eightieth year, exchanged the anxieties and responsibilities of office for the repose of domestic life, to which he is so well entitled. Sir James, though suffering under some of the infirmities of age, is in possession of good general health and much mental vigor.

Victim to Quackery.—M. Tanchore, an eminent Parisian practitioner, is said to have recently fallen a victim to one of the quackeries of the day. He believed that the topical application of cold water was a specific against acute rheumatism; and seems to have induced a fatal affection of his chest by endeavouring to illustrate his theory on his own person, while suffering from arthritic symptoms.—*L'Union Médicale.*

Obituary Record.—Died, at St. Petersburg, on the 9th of October (old style), aged 55 years, SIR JAMES WILIE, M. D., for many years physician to the Grand Duke Michael of Russia.

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